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PRESS RELEASE

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Group home care-giver sentenced to jail for assault of a vulnerable adult in March 2004

Washington, D.C. - A local group home care-giver, Cyriacus Chidi Ibeh, has been sentenced to two months in jail for assaulting a vulnerable adult in a group where the defendant worked, United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today.

Ibeh, 33, of Laurel, Maryland, was sentenced yesterday in D.C. Superior Court before the Honorable Zinora Mitchell-Rankin to the maximum 180 days in jail, with all but 60 days suspended. The Court's sentence also included two years of supervised probation, a fine of \$500, and an order to not work as a caregiver for vulnerable adults.

Ibeh was found guilty of the abuse following a bench trial before Judge Mitchell-Rankin on November 1, 2005. He was a care-giver in a group home for mentally retarded adults in Northeast Washington, D.C. According to trial testimony, on March 15, 2004, Ibeh struck one of the vulnerable adults in his care on the head in retaliation for the vulnerable adult stepping on his foot.

In announcing the sentence, United States Attorney Wainstein and Inspector General Willoughby praised the work of Patient Abuse Coordinator Jonathan Rich of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Office of the Inspector General (MFCU) for his investigation of the case. Mr. Wainstein and Mr. Willoughby also commended the work of Assistant United States Attorney Rhonda L. Campbell and Dangkhwa Nguyen of the MFCU, who jointly prosecuted the case.